# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1817
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
TRANSGENIC RESEARCH
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is considering transgenic research as an important area for future Indian agriculture development;

(b) if so, the crops in which research is being conducted;

(c) the amount earmarked for the proposed research;

(d) the time by which the transgenic seeds are likely to be developed;

(e) whether Indian Council for Agricultural Research is in a position to compete with Multi National Companies and developed nations research programme;

(f) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to undertake joint research with private sector; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Research is being conducted on cotton, brinjal, cabbage, castor, cauliflower, corn, groundnut, okra, potato, rice, tomato, sorghum, chickpea, pigeonpea, soybean, brassica, banana, papaya & cassava.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities are conducting research on their mandate crops including transgenics. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India is the nodal department of biotechnology including transgenic research. Beside above, the other organizations viz. Central Universities and other public sector organizations are also conducting transgenic research. No separate budget has been earmarked in above mentioned organizations for transgenic research.

It is further stated that following ICAR Institutes are working on agricultural biotechnology including transgenic research :-

(i) National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi.

(ii) National Research Centre on DNA Fingerprinting, New Delhi.

The details of budget of above mentioned two centers along with new initiatives in Indian Council of Agricultural Research are given below:-

| | | (in crores) |
|---|---|---|
| (i) National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi | - | Rs.16.435 |
| (ii) National Research Centre on DNA Fingerprinting, New Delhi | - | Rs. 8.577 |
| (iii) Network Project on Transgenic, New Delhi (2 years) | - | Rs. 32.85 |

(iv) Network Project on Molecular Breeding, New Delhi (3 years) - Rs. 2.41

(v) Network Project on Gene Pyramiding for Resistance to Multiple Biotic Stress in Crops, New Delhi (3 years) - Rs. 1.95

(d) Development of transgenic research on 19 crops are in experimental stage. These will be released after biosafety testing etc. by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India.

(e) Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) is developing capabilities to compete with Multi National companies and developed nations programme.

(f) Indian Council of Agricultural Research encourages Public-Private Partnership to undertake joint research with private sector.

(g) National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi has entered into Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) with M/s Bejo Sheetal for field testing and commercialization of Bt brinjal. In addition, ICAR is contemplating a proposal in collaboration with Agricultural Biotechnology Support Program (ABSP) of Cornell University, USA, to develop Bt-brinjal, drought tolerant rice, late blight resistant potato etc.